BRIDGEND BEEKEEPERS
GWENYNWYR PEN-Y-BONT

Bridgend And District Beekeepers Annual Report 2026

Charity No 1159663

Trustees

Greg Nuttgens – Chairman

Ceri John - Secretary

Graham Tierney - Treasurer Membership Secretary

Dafydd Pett – Website/social media Manager

Jonathan Griffiths – Education Trustee

Martin Bullock – Asian Hornet Coordinator

Huw Evans - Trustee

Julia Martin – Trustee

Janette Davies - Trustee

Bridgend Beekeepers Association

Chairman's report, 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

The Association continues to provide training for Beginners, and ongoing support for all members, by means of our annual beginner's course, Apiary meetings, evening meetings and visits. Our 'shop' enables members to purchase a wide range of beekeeping equipment and feeds at advantageous prices.

The 2025 Beginners' Course was fully subscribed, though as usual the numbers attending declined during and after the course.

Jonathan Griffiths has now taken on the role of Education and Training Officer, organising both the Beginners' Course, open Apiary sessions and monthly meetings. He has also assisted, with other trustees, with the maintenance of the apiary and the storage container.

This year there was a good crop of honey from the Apiary, and we were able to sell 'Bryngarw Honey' through the café at Bryngarw, to the Bryngarw House Hotel and to other local outlets. Some honey was also taken by the Cotyrahen Hall committee in lieu of room hire for our meetings.

Trustees gave a number of talks on beekeeping to schools and other organisations in the area.

Our treasurer has continued to assist the Brynawel Drug and Alcohol Rehab Unit, Sony UK, and the Welsh Blood Service, with their beekeeping activities.

We are regularly contacted by members of the public concerned about bee swarms or bees in buildings, and we are able to offer appropriate advice or assistance.

This year we had another visit to Coed Hills Community Garden to look at the hives managed by Eifion Owen.

Our annual Honey Show was well attended, and in October we had a practical session demonstrating honey extraction. Members also set up a stall and display for National Bee Day, in Bryngarw Country Park.

As a result of the decision taken last year not to invite visiting speakers to our meetings, monthly meetings have become an opportunity for members to discuss a wide range of beekeeping topics. We would be grateful for any offers from members for talks or apiary visits.

Greg Nuttgens Chairman August 2026

Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1159663

Accounts for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.

Bank Accounts

Cash on 31st March 2026	- Current Account	938.88	
	Deposit Account	11,202.01	
	PayPal	0.00	
	WIX	0.00	£12,140.89
Cash on 31st March 2025	- Current Account	345.85	
	Deposit Account	13,879.02	
	PayPal	0.00	
	WIX	0.00	£14,224.87

Deficit for the year ending 31st March 2026 £ 2,083.98

The financial situation in previous years was: -

Year ending 31st March 2025	a surplus of	£3,523.75
Year ending 31st March 2024	a surplus of	£1,463.25
Year ending 31st March 2023	a deficit of	£2,152.25

Income was from membership fees, sales of Bulk Purchased items to members and the sale of Honey from the Apiary there were no charitable donations in the year.

Following a stock check on 31st March 2026 the value of Stock for sale and Apiary equipment in the container at Bryngarw, and at the Garage in Porthcawl was:-

Stock for Sale at Bryngarw and Porthcawl		£15,134.02
Apiary & Equipment for rent		£ 5,742.60
	Total	£20,876.62

The total value of Stock (£20,876.62) and cash (£12,140.89) on 31st March 2026 was £33,017.51 (£29,255.87 on 31st March 2025)

The accounts have been audited; a copy of the Auditors report is attached.

Graham Tierney – Hon Treasurer

BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS

EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1st APRIL 2025 - 31st March 2026

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.25 – 31.03.26), these were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB
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1st June 2026

Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association
Membership report for 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

Membership fees were adjusted from 1st January 2025 in line with the WBKA Capitation and BDI insurance premiums.

On 31st March 2026, we had a total of 96 registered members, a decrease of 11 from the number registered with WBKA in 2025. The direct comparison with previous years is as follows: -

2017 - 112	2019 - 95	2021 - 110	2023 - 103	2025 - 108
2018 - 109	2020 - 108	2022 – 105	2024 – 103	2026 – 97

In addition, there were 37 Partner Members, 16 more than 2025. This is the third year we have had named Partner Members following the changes to the WBKA insurance rules in 2023/4. The total of Registered, Partner and Members without bees was 134

The gross total membership for previous years was: -

2018 – 125 2019 – 119 2020 – 116 2021 – 123 2022 – 114 2023 – 119
2024 – 112 2025 – 129

Approximately 72% of the membership are individuals and 28% are Partners, there was 1 member without bees. We have decided to discontinue the Corporate and Schools Memberships in line with the WBKA/BDI membership categories.

The total number of Colonies insured in 2026 was 575 a decrease of 15%, possibly explained by the high level of colony losses in the 2025/26 winter. The number of colonies insured for previous years were: -

2018 – 640 2019 - 693 2020 – 660 2021 - 651 2022 - 649 2023 - 753
2024 - 694 2025 - 677

The average number of colonies insured for these years is 664

Graham Tierney - Membership Secretary

Education Report 2026

Beginner's Course 2025.

Our 2025 course was fully subscribed as usual with a number of people on our waiting list. The course commenced at the end of March and was due to run for the usual six weeks. The weather in April turned out to be rather cold and unfortunately, we were unable to inspect the colonies properly for three of the Sunday morning practical sessions. One of the mornings was utilised for a practical demonstration on hive construction, as is intended, and we decided to extend the course by a further two weeks for practical sessions to compensate. Unfortunately, a few course participants only attended one, a few or none of the practical or theory sessions for various unknown reasons. This was disappointing knowing that there was a waiting list to join the course. This is something that we can't predict and it's usually too late to invite those in waiting onto the course once we realise the situation. We are currently reviewing our course fee structure as a possible discouragement for some of these situations.

It has always been our policy to loan our bee suits to course participants should they not have their own, provided that they are returned at the end of the course and in a clean condition. Sadly, a few of our suits were not returned this year, despite a number of requests, and some of the returned ones were not in a clean condition and required professional cleaning. Following this, we have changed our policy from 2026 whereby course participants can loan the suits on a daily basis.

Despite the issues with the weather, the course was well received with positive feedback and several of the participants remain active and valuable Members of the Association.

Open Apiary

Following our Beginners' Course in the Spring, we continue to offer 'open apiary' sessions for all Members on most Sundays throughout the season. This is an opportunity for beginners and other less experienced members to continue building on their knowledge and for more experienced members to share theirs. Sadly, even though we usually continue to see some of our beginners for a few weeks, it's rare to get more than about three members turning up on a regular basis.

Association Social Meetings

We have continued to utilise our own Members' knowledge and experience to provide contributions to our monthly meetings. Subjects that offer practical advice and solutions to everyday beekeeping have proved particularly popular and we have seen a reasonable attendance of Members although, considering the total number of Members, it would always be nice to see more at our meetings. As always, we invite Members to make suggestions as to subjects they would like to hear about or discuss or indeed to contribute themselves to a meeting.

Jonathan Griffiths – Education Trustee

Website & Social Media Report

I am pleased to report on another successful year in my role as Website and Social Media Manager for Bridgend & District Beekeepers Association. The Association's website continues to develop as an important source of information for both our members and the wider public. Over the past year, I have updated and improved various areas of the website, including the online shop, as well as ensuring that news, updates and important documents are kept readily available. Particular attention has been given to the Asian Hornet page, which has been developed to make it more user-friendly and accessible, while providing a comprehensive source of information for beekeepers, members and the public. The aim has been to make the website a genuine wealth of knowledge and a useful first point of reference for anyone looking for information about Asian Hornets and their impact on honeybees.

Security and transparency remain top priorities for the website. Working on improving backend functionality to ensure that all data remains safe has been a focal point of my work over the past year.

Website traffic has remained encouraging, with almost 3,000 sessions recorded since July 2025, demonstrating the continued interest in the Association and the information we provide.

Our Facebook presence has also continued to grow with the Association's Facebook page now reaching 503 followers and recorded approximately 6,000 views over the past year. We have also received a significant number of messages and enquiries through the page, providing an important way for members of the public and fellow beekeepers to contact the Association.

The members-only Facebook group continues to be popular and remains a valuable hub for our paying members with 80 beekeepers within the group. It provides an informal space for members to communicate, share information and experiences, ask questions and keep up to date with Association activities.

Another important part of the role has been promoting the Association and the work of our members to a wider audience. Over the past year, I have helped facilitate and promote the Association's involvement in multiple BBC Countryfile episodes, as well as features and appearances on BBC radio 4 as well as other national news outlets. These opportunities have helped raise awareness of beekeeping, the importance of honeybees and pollinators, and the work carried out by Bridgend & District Beekeepers Association within our local community.

Having managed the website and social media since 2022, it has been particularly encouraging to see these platforms develop into increasingly important resources for the Association and I look forward to continuing to develop the website and social media platforms over the coming year and further promoting the Association, its members and the important work that we do.

Dafydd Pett- Website and social media manager

Yellow Legged Asian Hornet Report (YLAH)

Luckily an uneventful year for YLAH sighting in Wales. Although an old nest was found in Wrexham in January, there have been no sightings of live insects in Wales so far this year.

We now have around 60 members and members of the public who have agreed to actively monitor for YLAH. More are needed, but a good start. It is essential that we stay vigilant.
I registered a designated email address that appears on business card information stickers the association had printed that can be attached to existing literature or handed out, to encourage more people to become monitors.

The Association has supported my requests for purchasing Trappit bait and YLAH information labels for honey jars. These have been given to members attending monthly meetings along with packs that include all the available information leaflets and monitoring traps. Thanks also to Dafydd Pett for his work improving the YLAH section on the Association's website.

Ruth and I represented the Association with a display at Bryngarw Country Park for World Bee Day in May. Although mostly bee related, we also had YLAH information and ensured visitors received leaflets and details about becoming monitors.
We also did a bee talk at Tondu Primary School in June. Although this was aimed at a young audience, the children were given YLAH leaflets to take home for their parents, and information was left for the staff to place on their notice boards.

I represent the association at regular online meetings with the WBKA and coordinators from other Welsh associations where the current situation and future action is discussed.
My plan for the future is to encourage more members to actively 'spread the word' by contacting any public body or company that may be able to help with YLAH monitoring.

Martin Bullock - YLAH Coordinator